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A Digital Manga Guild Publication

ACT. 18 Missing Yukimura / The missing
NOOO! SAIZO'S HAVING TEA WITH ME!!
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN, SAIZO.
I CAN'T STAND BEIN' BORED.
THE OLD MAN CALLS US HERE, AND NOW HE'S THE LATE ONE
GRRR
CAN'T YOU GUYS WAIT QUIETLY?!
KEEP IT DOWN!
YOUNG MASTER!
SLIDE
WHAP

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BRAVE 10
ブレイブ・テン
Shimotsuki Kairi
霜月かいり
4

IF YOU NEED LORD YUKIMURA, HE ISN'T HERE YET, ROKURO.
...
...
I CAN'T FIND THE YOUNG MASTER,
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE HE WAS HERE ALREADY...
TURN
WITHOUT A WORD?!
W-WAIT!
WHAT IN THE WORLD'S GOING ON?!
RISE
STEP
I'LL LOOK, TOO!
I WILL GO LOOK FOR HIM.

WHAT?
HE'S NOT AROUND?
THEN, WOULDN'T HE BE WITH SOME LADY?!
TCH!
THUNK
PAN!
WHOA!!
HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN MISSING?
SINCE THIS MORNING
FOR NOW, LET'S ALL SPLIT UP AND LOOK FOR HIM.
HE PROBABLY HASN'T LEFT THE CASTLE, AT LEAST.
THEN, LET'S START WITH HIS BEDROOM.
MAYBE WE'LL END UP FINDING HE'S STILL ASLEEP.
SO I SUSPECTED HE'D ALREADY LEFT IT...
I CALLED TO HIM FROM OUTSIDE HIS ROOM, BUT THERE WAS NO ANSWER,

SHAP
LORD YUKIMURA!
...
WHAT'S WITH THIS MESS...?

NO WAY!
LORD YUKIMURA, ABDUCTED?!
FEELS LIKE SOMEBODY BROKE IN HERE, DON'T IT?!
WAS HE KIDNAPPED?!
THEY DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND?
WE'RE DEALING WITH A REAL PRO THEN.
THERE WERE NO STRANGE SOUNDS LAST NIGHT.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED, I SHOULD'VE NOTICED..
GUARDS!! GATHER!!
WHAT IN THE HELL..?
YEAH...
THIS IS.. TURNING OUT TO BE SERIOUS.

—AGREE!
CONTINUE GUARD KEY POINTS!
SCATTER!!
LORD YUKIMURA NOT CROSSED BORDER.
VERY LIKELY STILL IN UEDA DOMAIN!
SHA SHAA
HEY, SASUKE!!
HE'S SO QUICK!!
—LORD YUKIMURA ...!
IF ANYONE'S AFTER THE OLD MAN...
IT'S PROBABLY TOKUGAWA.

SHFF
WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE!
I'M GOING, TOO
I'LL GO LOOK OVER THERE!
HE COULDN'T BE...!
FWUP
YOU STAY IN THE CASTLE, ISANAMI!
HUHHH?! NOOO!!
SNAP
HE MEANS YOU'LL GET IN THE WAY, BITCH!
SAIZO'S COMIN' WITH ME!
I'M GOING WITH YOU!
YOU ARE ASSUMING A LOT.
—I'M GOING ON AHEAD.
OHHH, SHE'S PISSED
WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?!

LORD YUKIMURA?!
CHEESOM

HE HASN'T BEEN HERE LATELY.
IT'S BEEN LONELY.
GRAB
HEY, ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?!
PARDON ME, THEN.
I SEE..
WE'D LIKE TO ENTERTAIN YOU ONCE IN A WHILE, MY DEAR UNNO.
HUH?!
COME ON, GIRLS!
YAYYY!! ♡

HISHFFFF
-HE ISN'T...
ANY-WHERE.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU, OLD MAN...?

HE'D NEVER LET HIMSELF BE TAKEN WITHOUT A FIGHT...
DAMN... THIS HAS ME IN A WEIRD MOOD...
WHAT IF LORD YUKIMURA'S ACTUALLY HIDING IN THE CASTLE SOMEWHERE?
YOU PUT MUCH THOUGHT INTO THAT ONE?!
HUH?!
KACHING
YOU'RE MAKING A FOOL OF ME, AREN'T YOU?!
NOPE, I'M SURE NOT I'M SAYING YOU'RE STUPID.
HUHHH?!
I CAN'T CALM DOWN WITH HIM GONE.
IRK
WHAT IS THIS?!
I'M NOT STUPID!! THE ONE WHO CALLS OTHER PEOPLE STUPID IS STUPID, STUPID!!
WHAT?! I'LL HIT YOU, BITCH!!
RARRR!
RARRR!
SHUT UP!!

WHAT ARE YOU TWO, CATS AND DOGS?!
FLINCH
IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA LOOK FOR HIM, THEN GET OUTTA HERE!!
ANA!
I DIDN'T SEE HIM ANY-WHERE.
NEITHER DID I.
-AL-RIGHT...
SHAFF
WHAT'RE YOU THREE DOING?!
SHFF
DON'T MAKE THAT CREEPY SOUND, BITCH.
EHHN!
DON'T GET MAD AT ME, SAIZOOO!
BUT NOTH-ING!
-BUT-

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SASUKE?!
NOWHERE...
TO BE FOUND.
HOW COULD THIS BE?!
SIMPLE. KILL HIM, AND PUT THE PIECES IN DIFFERENT BAGS.
OFFHAND
HEY, STOP THAT!!
HOW COULD HE GET ACROSS THE BORDER WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING...?
—NO! NOT LORD YUKIMURA...
FWEEEEE!

FWEEE
AOBA!!
SHFF
...!!
HEY!!
OVER THERE!!
SHAA
IGA COWARD!!
NOT NEED YOU!!
I'M COMING, TOO!!
DID YOU FIND HIM?!

COWARD?!
OH, IS HE GONNA SNAP?!
SASUKE'S IN A BAD MOOD
...
WHERE DOES HE GET OFF CALLING ME A COWARD?!
THAT KOGA MONKEY!
SNAAAAP
LOOKS LIKE FUN!!
DASH
WAIT!! I'M COMING, TOO!!
GET YOUR ASS BACK HERE!
SHOOM
OH! SAIZO!!
DID YOU FIND LORD YUKIMURA?!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
-?! WHERE'S EVERY-BODY GOING?

SHAA
ZHOOM
HEY SASUKE YOU CREEP!!
TAKE BACK WHAT YOU SAID!!

HMPH.
SHAA
IGNORE
...
!
NUISANCE! LEAVE! WOMANIZER!
SCOOT
OH?!
HUH?
WOMAN...IZER?!
THAT DOES IT!
YOU SON OF A BITCH!!
SHOOM!!

ALWAYS!!
WHEN?! WHERE?!
WHO HAVE I BEEN WOMANIZING?!
BASTARD...! THAT'S A FALSE ACCUSATION!!
NOT FALSE!!
THM
SHMM
WHAP
WHMM
HUHH?!
YOU NOT SERIOUS!!
SPRING
WHOCK

IN WHAT WAY?!
LEAP
EVERY!!
...NOW I'M PISSED!
URK!
FWP
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO TAKE THAT LEVEL OF SHIT FROM YOU?!

THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES GOOFING OFF!!
CHING CHING CHING CHING CHING
FWICK
IS TRUTH!!
LORD YUKIMURA EMERGENCY!! BUT YOU MESS AROUND THOSE TWO!!
THAT MAKES ME A WOMANIZER?! TALK ABOUT AN ARBITRARY REASON!!

STOP IT YOU TWO!!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT MY FAULT!!
CHING
SHF
NOT ARBITRARY!! ALWAYS MAKE SO MUCH NOISE!!
CHING
DON'T STOP THEM, BITCH!!
OHO!! LOOK AT 'EM GO.

IT'S TWO NINJAS FIGHTING!
WE MIGHT EVEN GET TO SEE BLOOD!!
THAT'D BE SWEEEET!
YOU'RE WEIRD!!
WEIRD? SO WHAT?!
SWOS
YOU OFFEND!!
YOU WANT A REAL FIGHT, HUH..?!
THU!!
!!
CHFF

FWMM
YOU LASH OUT OVER SUCH STUPID THINGS!!
WHOM
PUNK!!
!!
I LOOK FOR LORD YUKIMURA!!
I NO TIME FOR YOU!!
SHUT UP!!
I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER!!

FWAP
WHACK
I'M DESPERATE TO FIND HIM, TOO!!
I WON'T LOSE TO YOU!!
WHAP
FWMP
FWMP
SWAY
WHOA...!

FLUMP
WHUNK
BMP
ROLL
OWW..
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
ARE YOU TRAINING TOGETHER? THAT'S A RARE SIGHT
OL—

OLD MAN!!
LORD YUKIMURA!!
–? WHAT?

?
WHAT? ARE YOU CRYING?
SASUKE!
N-NO, IT NOTHING...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHAT"?!
FOUND HIM...
OH, GOOD...
HEY SAIZO! DON'T RUN OFF WITHOUT MEEE!!
WHERE HAVE YOU—
?!
AHHHH!!
LORD YU-KIMURA!!
I'M SO GLAD YOU WEREN'T ABDUCTED..!
ME, ABDUCTED?! SAY WHAT..?
YOUR ROOM WAS IN SHAMBLES!

SHAM BLES?
AHH! I WAS SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.
I DON'T THINK I LEFT THAT MUCH OF A MESS, THOUGH...
I'D HAVE TO SAY THAT IT WAS QUITE THE MESS!
WE THOUGHT MAYBE A BURGLAR BROKE IN
THERE'S NO WAY THAT WAS A LORD'S ROOM.
IT'S TOO MESSY OR SOMETHIN'
WE WERE WORRIED!
R-REALLY?
SO..
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
ALL THAT SEARCHING MADE ME
WANT TO TAKE IN THE VIEW FROM HERE.

I LIKE THE WAY UEDA LOOKS FROM UP HERE.
ISN'T IT...

THAT'S RIGHT.
BEAUTIFUL?
I DON'T THINK YOU COULD DISAGREE,
BEH
NOT IF YOU'RE WALKING DOWN THE SAME PATH AS ME.
...I'M SUPPOSED TO AGREE, RIGHT?

IT'S PRETTY!
YES, IT IS.
THAT'S SOME SELF-CONFIDENCE YOU'VE GOT.
YOU MEAN YOU ONLY JUST NOTICED?
...NO, HE WAS LIKE THIS FROM DAY ONE.
HE'S A CRUDE AND SHARP-TONGUED GUY,
BUT HE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO PUT TOGETHER THIS GROUP...

YOU KICK SOME REAL ASS, MAN.
...AND SOMETHING MAKES HIM ODDLY COMPELLING...
OH?!
THAT NO WAY SPEAK TO LORD YUKIMURA!!
IT'S OKAY, SASUKE.
EXACTLY WHAT IS OKAY?!
GRR :R!
ZHOM
ROKURO?!
THMP

PFFT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, ROKURO?!
DID YOU HAVE YOURSELF SOME FUN IN MY ABSENCE?
HOW DO YOU THINK I GOT THIS WAY?
HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD...
DOOO
MP
VERY WELL, I'LL BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU IN DETAIL,
WHO TO THANK FOR THIS.
...WELL, TIME TO HEAD BACK.
I'M HUNGRY. I THINK I'LL STOP BY A CAFE.
OH, GOOD IDEA.
ME TOO! HOW'RE THE GREENS THERE?!
GREENS?!
L-LET ME COME, TOO, YOU GUYS...
YOUNG MASTER!!

ACT.19 Rokuro's Right Eye / A Private Eye

SHIGEZANE, COMING YOUR WAY!!
TMP TMP TMP TMP
TMP TMP
WHOM
SHMM
FWMP
WHOA, LOOK OUT!!

SWOOM
!!
HALT
...
WHEW..

KOJURO!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MY LORD?!
...UEDA.
"ENOUGH WITH THE HAIR!"
KCHIK
YUKIMURA... SANADA?

WHAT?
ARE YOU GOING ON ANOTHER JOURNEY?
THAT'S RIGHT
SHIT SHIT
JUST FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS.
HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D STEAL A TREASURE FROM ME.
WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO SEE HIS FACE?
YOU MUSTN'T DO THIS!!
THIS IS A CRITICAL TIME FOR YOU, MY LORD!!
PAT PAT
IT'S NO TIME TO GET MIXED UP WITH A MINOR DAIMYO LIKE SANADA!!
I'M JUST GOING TO GO TAKE A QUICK LOOK
WHAT A PAIN!!
LISTEN TO ME! OUR DATE CLAN BACKS TOKUGAWA
HOWEVER, SANADA SIDES WITH TOYOTOMI!
IF YOU PERSONALLY MAKE A MOVE AT A TIME LIKE THIS,
IT WOULDN'T TAKE MUCH TO LEAD TO A WAR THAT DIVIDES THE REALM IN HALF!!
WAR?!

SURE, WHY NOT?
DAZZLE
THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE BORED.
ALL IT WOULD DECIDE IS VICTORY AND DEFEAT BETWEEN TWO SAMURAI FACTIONS! IT WOULD BE OVER IN HALF A DAY'S TIME.
NO...
AHN?!
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, MY LORD?!
IS A TRIVIAL WAR LIKE THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

WHAT I WANT...
IS AN UPHEAVAL THAT OVERTURNS THE ENTIRE WORLD OF MAN!!
INSTEAD OF THE GODS,
I WILL RESHAPE THIS LAND'S HISTORY FROM THE BEGINNING!!
IF YOU WISH, KOJURO, WHY DON'T YOU FIND OUT WHETHER YUKIMURA SANADA...
IS SUITABLE TO BE A PLAYER ON THAT GRAND STAGE...?

IF I SUCCEED, YOU'LL KNOW HE DIDN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH!!
I, DATE CLAN STRATEGIST, KOJURO KAGETSUNA KATAKURA,
..VERY WELL.
CLENCH!
WHIP
WILL PERSONALLY BRING DOWN SANADA!!
OH?
FHHH
...IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, MY LORD...?

PLEASE PROMISE ME YOU WON'T GET DEEPLY INVOLVED!!
SURE.
KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON HOW...
TAK TAK
YOU GO ABOUT THIS WILL KEEP THINGS FROM GETTING BORING.

WELL, EVERY-THING'S AT HAND NOW...
WHUMP
どカッ
IS THAT IT...?
TIME TO FINALLY SHED SOME LIGHT ON THINGS.
THE THING YOU WERE LOOKING FOR...?
THIS OLD BOOK'S BEEN HANDED DOWN FOR GENERA-TIONS IN THE SANADA CLAN...
KAKEI'S REPORT SAID THERE WAS ANCIENT WRITING UNDERGROUND AT IZUMO.
THIS'LL HELP US DECIPHER IT.

I COULDN'T READ WHAT I DID SEE.. AND I DON'T REMEMBER IT.
NOR DO I, AT ALL..
IT WAS TOO DARK TO SEE MUCH.
OH! ON THAT ROCK..!
WRITING ...
?
HEY, THAT'S NO PROBLEM.
ROKURO!
AS YOU WISH.
STOOP
HUH?
HUH?!
UH?!
WHY'RE YOU SO CLOSE?!
ZHMP
WHOA! BACK OFF, DUDE!!
...
*PIPE DOWN, SAIZO.

*YUKIMURA.

REACH
FWAP
TOO CLOSE !!
STOP MAKING THIS DIFFICULT!
KEEP QUIET, SAIZO.
FWMM
EVERYONE BEAR WITH US FOR A BIT.
WHAP
...YOUR EYE, IT'S...
!

SHIN
PACHING
!!
DIV
HIS EYE...
ZHOM
...AH!
STARE
THERE'S A BUNCH OF WRITING IN HIS EYE-BALL...!
TTTTT

HE'S SUCK-ING OUT...
WH...AT ...?!

FWIT
HAAAAA
WHOOOMMMM
MY MEMO-RIES.
NOW, IF YOU WOULD, HAND OVER THE KUSHI-NADA!
SHMP
SHIFT
...!!
...HAH!
HAHH!
LET'S SEE...

WHAT, WHAT?!
WHAT WAS WRITTEN DOWN THERE, LORD YUKIMURA?
OLD MAN?
IT SAYS, "YOU CANNOT PASS THIS POINT."
OR MORE LIKE, "YOU CAME ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE? GOOD FOR YOU. ♥
THAT'S ALL.

WHAT A LET-DOWN
WE WENT DOWN INTO THAT PLACE, AND THAT'S IT..?
HUH?! WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!
SOORRING!
PWUMP
...SHIT...!
AND THAT'S ALL?!
ALL OF THAT FIGHTING, I HAD MY MIND SPIED ON,
WHAT'D THE ONE EYED GUY DO TO YOU JUST NOW?!
HEY HEY SAIZO!
WAIT UH
THMP THMP THMP
SORRY FOR SUMMON-ING YOU JUST FOR THAT.
YOU'RE ALL FREE TO GO.
YES, MY LORD...
I'M OUTTA HERE!!
WHAM
OH! SAIZO!!
PARDON US
ROKURO TEA
AS YOU WISH.

IRONIC FATE
—IT'S AN...
CLACK
I'M NOT GOING TO ABANDON WHAT I'VE TAKEN UNDER MY WING
BUT...
IF THIS IS TRUE,
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
YOUNG MASTER...!
DON'T SAY IT, ROKURO.

THE GIRL, WHO MANAGED TO MAKE HER WAY TO SANADA TERRITORY.
AND SAIZO, WHO CAME ALONG WITH HER..
YOU'RE RIGHT,
BUT THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN JUST THAT.
AND THEN, THE REST OF US...
YOUNG MASTER!!
I WANT TO HURRY AND GATHER AS MANY COMRADES AS I HAVE FINGERS.
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT DRAGON IS AFTER.
I DON'T THINK HE'LL JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH.

HYNN
ONLY YOU AND I KNOW...
YOU CAN'T LET ANYONE GET AT THAT RIGHT EYE OF YOURS, ROKURO.
I KNOW.

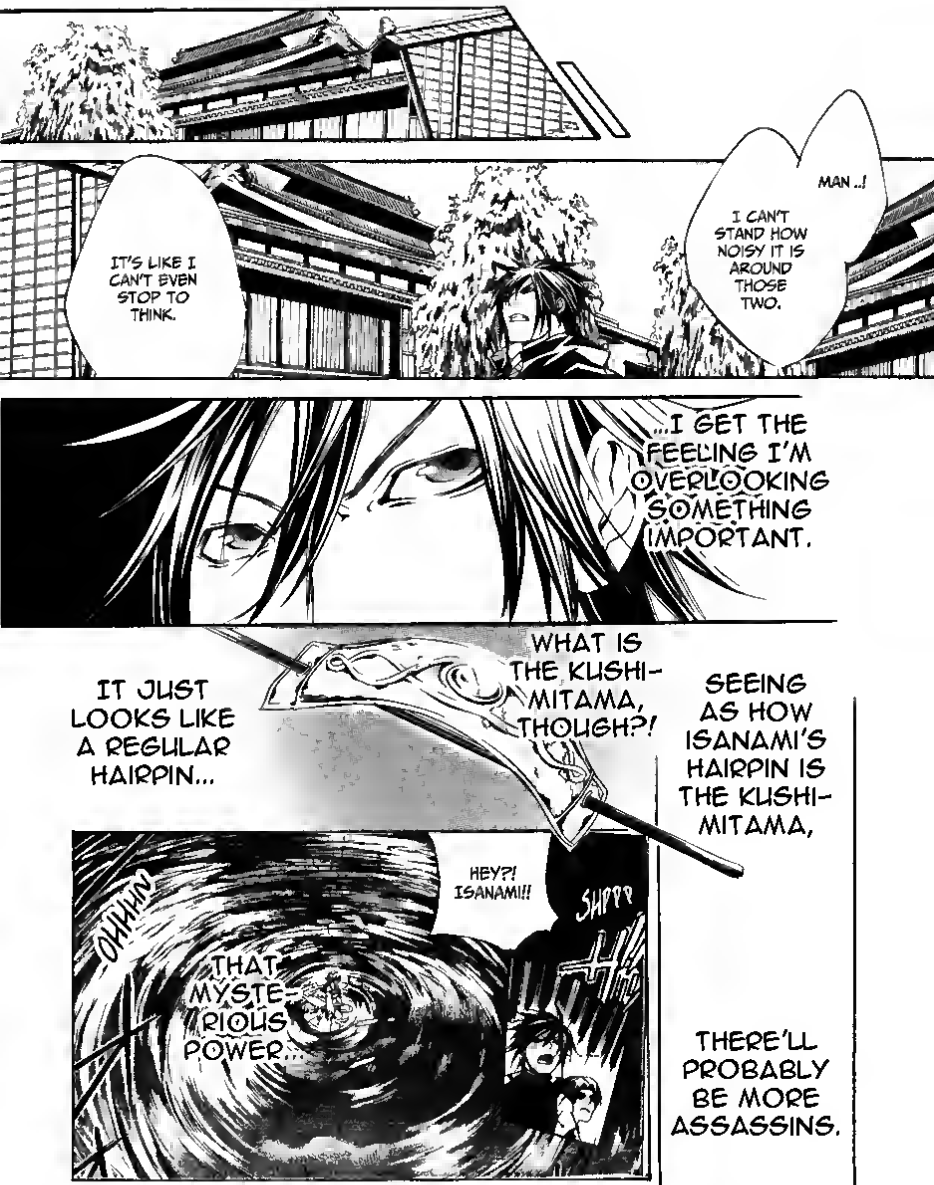
AHHH!
SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THIS JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

SAY, LET'S GO EAT SOMETHING SWEET TO TAKE OUR MINDS OFF IT.
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO EAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
BLEH
THESE TWO ARE SO ANNOYING...
RIGHT! HEY AIKO!
LEFT! UP!
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY?! YOU'RE NOT EVEN A BRAVE!
THAT YUKIMURA GUY SAID I COULD STAY IF I BECAME ONE!
WHAT?!
IT WAS WHILE YOU WERE LAID UP AFTER WE GOT BACK FROM IZUMO..
SOUNDS FISHY.
WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN...?
WHOA.
YOU'RE THE ACE FIGHTER WHO'S JOINED AT THE HIP WITH SAIZO?!

YUP.
SO, HE'S PROMISED TO FIGHT YOU OR SOMETHING?
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN, AS THINGS STAND, THOUGH.
RK
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, HE WORKS FOR ME RIGHT NOW.
YOU'D HAVE TO TAKE ME DOWN FIRST, TO GET TO HIM.
SHONG
OH, YEAH ..?
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE BELONGS TO ME

THEN I'LL JUST KILL YOU QUICK, AND TAKE HIM!!
CHAK
...
THAT'D BE SILLY...
HUH?!
WHY'S THAT?!
THE FASTER PASSION FLARES UP, THE SOONER IT COOLS.
THE LONGER YOU HOLD PLEASURE INSIDE, THE BETTER IT GETS.
SLOWLY,
LEISURE-LY,
LIFT
PAUSE
THEN RELEASE ALL AT ONCE.
FWAP!
YOU PUSH YOURSELF TO YOUR LIMIT,
YOU WAIT AND WITHSTAND, ANTICIPATING THE SURGE OF PLEASURE.

IT FEELS BETTER THAT WAY.
HMM?
TOUCH
...!
SHUDDER
YEAH.
YOU CAN STAY HERE UNTIL THAT TIME COMES.
SAIZO'LL BE HERE TOO. YOU WON'T GET BORED!
SHOOM
YOU GOT IT, I'M IN!!
MAN, YOU'RE GOOD!!
ONCE AGAIN
HO HO HO!
LAUGH OF THE NOBILITY
—OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WASN'T THAT A LITTLE CASUAL?!
SAIZO!!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S NUTS?!
?!
GONE
HUH?
SAIZO?!


IT'S LIKE I CAN'T EVEN STOP TO THINK.
MAN ..!
I CAN'T STAND HOW NOISY IT IS AROUND THOSE TWO.
...I GET THE FEELING I'M OVERLOOKING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
WHAT IS THE KUSHI-MITAMA, THOUGH?!
IT JUST LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR HAIRPIN...
SEEING AS HOW ISANAMI'S HAIRPIN IS THE KUSHI-MITAMA,
HEY?! ISANAMI!!
SHPPP
OHHHH
THAT MYSTE-RIOUS POWER...
THERE'LL PROBABLY BE MORE ASSASSINS.

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO FAMILY...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN RELY ON, SAIZO...
ISANAMI...
IS THE KUSHIMI-TAMA CAUSING IT...?
TIME'S A'WASTING.
WHACK
WHACK
MAYBE I'LL GO BACK TO IGA FOR A WHILE...
I'D BETTER SHARPEN MY SKILLS MORE...

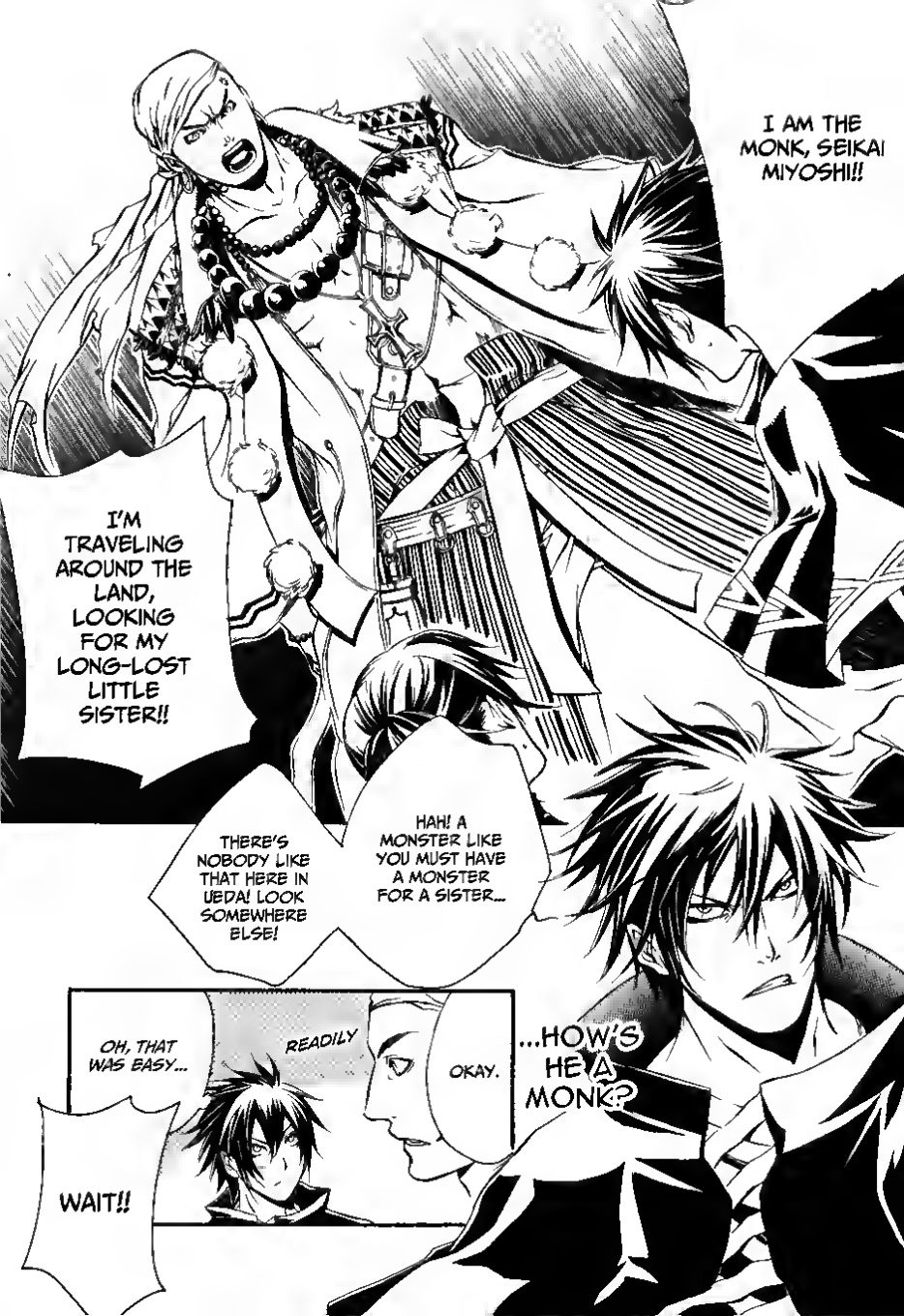
GRASSSH!!
?!
KAKE!?!
KLONK
KUH!
CLATA
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW STRONG THAT GUY IS
WHAT GUY?!
THE ONE TRYING TO EAT AND RUN IN THERE!
I TOLD HIM TO PAY HIS BILL, AND HE WENT BERSERK...
WRONG!!
DSSH

KRRN
I AM ONE WHO SERVES THE GODS!!
THEREFORE, MY ACTIONS ARE THOSE OF THE BUDDHA!!
WHAM
EVERYONE SHOULD BE HAPPY TO GIVE SAKE AND FOOD TO THE BUDDHA!!
HE'S A MONK BUILT LIKE THAT?!
SAY WHAT?! YOU GO ON ABOUT GODS AND BUDDHA,
HUH?!
BUT YOU'RE JUST A HOODLUM LOOKING FOR A FREE MEAL!!

PEOPLE PAY MONEY TO THE GODS AS A FORM OF WORSHIP!!
CAN'T FOOD ALSO BE AN OFFERING?!
I'M A SERVANT OF THOSE GODS, AND I'M HUNGRY!
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
JUST PAY THE BILL, ALREADY!
I'M BROKE!!
IRK
...
I BET YOU GO AROUND EATING FOR FREE EVERY-WHERE.
HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU A DIVINE SERVANT, YOU HOO-LIGAN?!
FEH!
I'M NO HOOLIGAN!!
SHUDDER
I'M ON A HOLY JOURNEY!!
WHIP
BEHOLD!!

LOOKING FOR MY SISTER
BADUM
TWITCH
...
HOLY? THAT'S ABOUT AS PERSONAL AS IT GETS.

ACT:20 Much Ado about Nothing / Earthshaker


I AM THE MONK, SEIKAI MIYOSHI!!
I'M TRAVELING AROUND THE LAND, LOOKING FOR MY LONG-LOST LITTLE SISTER!!
HAH! A MONSTER LIKE YOU MUST HAVE A MONSTER FOR A SISTER...
THERE'S NOBODY LIKE THAT HERE IN UEDA! LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE!
...HOW'S HE A MONK?
OKAY.
READILY
OH, THAT WAS EASY...
WAIT!!

KAKEI..
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST WORK OFF YOUR BILL AND THE COST TO REPAIR THAT SHOP?!
I CAN'T JUST LET A RUFFIAN LIKE YOU JUST WALK AWAY!!
YOU PAY FOR IT!
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR PICKING A FIGHT.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
CHAK
...I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR INSULTS!!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE A WEAK-LING!
IF IT HADN'T BEEN SO EASY TO SEND YOU FLYING, THIS WOULDN'T BE SUCH A BIG DEAL.

WE'LL JUST SEE WHETHER I'M WEAK OR NOT!!
FWIP
I'LL BEAT HIS PERSONAL-ITY INTO SHAPE!!
CAN A WARRIOR SIMPLY ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE MOCKED?!
TROMP
TROMP
JUST LET THE FOOL LEAVE!!
SHAP!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, POINTING A GUN AT THE BUDDHA?!
!!
OOF!
MAY YOU BE CURSED!!
WHAM!
SHFF
WHAT MAKES YOU BUDDHA?!
くにゃり
BENT
...HRN?!

HE BENT A GUN BARREL WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
WHO IS THIS MONK ...?!
WHAM
HNNN!
SA...
SA- SA-
SAAYA?!
WHOM
DIVINE WRATH!!

GRAB
GHOOM
FWOMP
KRUNK
...!!

WHOOM
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO SHOULD JUST ACCEPT DIVINE PUNISHMENT!!
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR, YOU MONK BASTARD!!
...!
SHFFF
THEN YOU'LL BE FORGIVEN!!
SHAK
SOMEHOW, I JUST DON'T BUY THAT!
HYO!!
FWPP

WHAM!
HNNN!
HNN!!
THNK
THNK
THNK
THNK
THNK
HUH?!
HE RE= PELLED THEM?!
CHING
KACHING
CHING=
DROP

HRHHH!
HRRN
HRRN
SSSSS
AND... HE DID IT WITH HIS MUSCLES?!
FINE, SO BE IT...
I SEE YOU REALLY WANT SOME DIVINE ANGER.
WHOOM
IN THAT CASE, I'LL BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES BEFORE ALL THE GODS I BELIEVE IN!

*LITERALLY: "I SINCERELY BELIEVE IN AMITABHA," OR "LORD HAVE MERCY ON ME." IT'S PART OF A BUDDHIST SUTRA.

*"ROKKON SHOJO" MEANS "PURIFICATION OF ONE'S SELF THROUGH DETACHMENT FROM THE SENSES."

DAMN IT...!
SHAM
WHOM!!
!!
HNN!
SHAK
WHOM!!!

CHANG
VINNNG!
FWAP
PULL
TURN
WHMP
...!!
HRNN?!

SHAAA
LOOKS LIKE FUN!!
COUNT ME IN, SAIZO!!
NOW YOU'LL OWE ME A FAVOR!!
KA-MANO-SUKE!!
LET THAT GO!!
JERK
!!
HUH?!

WHOA!!
ZHHF
CLACK
CLACK
YANK
OH?!
YANK
ARE YOU ANOTHER ONE OF THESE UNBELIEVERS?!
YOU CAN'T OUT-MUSCLE HIM!!
LET GO!!
GET DOWN HERE AND I'LL PREACH TO YOU!!
YOWW!!
REPENT!!

!!
WHAM
OWWW!!
EVIL SPIRIT, BEGONE!!
I'M TELLIN' YOU, DROP THE SICKLE!!
SHK
GOD-DAMN MUSCLE-HEAD!!
WAHH!!
SKYANK
WAH
HUH?!

FWPP
Vuuuu
Chok Chok Chok Chok
?!

WHACK
WHMP
TCH!
BOCK
THMP
FLIP

YOU INSOLENT!!
ONE JUMPS OUT, AND ANOTHER JUMPS IN!!
WHAT IS THIS ..? A TEST FROM THE GODS?!
TOK
YES!! I HEAR THEM SPEAK!!
OH, MY, MY.
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
THEY SAY TO OVER-COME THIS AND IMPROVE MYSELF!!
ALRIGHT!! I GLADLY ACCEPT!!
WHERE YOU THINK THIS IS?!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HE MEANS... BUT HE'S NO PUSH-OVER...!!
HII!
ANA!

NOW I SEE WHY IT WAS SO NOISY OVER HERE!
AH, SHUT UP!
THE TOWN'S GOING TO BE IN SHAMBLES IF YOU DON'T HURRY AND DO SOMETHING!
YOU COULD HELP OUT, YOU KNOW.
BLUNTLY
I DON'T DEAL WITH HIS TYPE.
THEY CREE ME OUT.
MUTTER
...ANA...
SHFF
I HANDLE THIS MYSELF!!
COME!! IT'S *JIHAD TIME!!
MY SOUL'S DELIVERANCE IS AT HAND!! AMEN!!
*AMONG MUSLIMS, THIS MEANS A STRUGGLE AMONGST UNBELIEVERS
SHENK
SHUT THE HELL UP, MUSCLES!!
GEE, THANKS...

OTSU-
MUJI!!
!!
DIE!!
FWOOM
NWOH!!
HEH!!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET!!
BWOOSH
THAT IDIOT, USING HIS TECHNIQUES HERE IN TOWN!!

VWOM
*PRAJNA PARAMI-TA!!
WHAM!
?!
KRENK
AUGH!
*A REFERENCE TO THE BUDDHIST CONCEPT OF "THE PERFECTION OF (TRANSCENDENT) WISDOM," BASED ON THE SANSKRIT WORDS PRAJNA AND PARAMITA
THUK
?!
FWIT

*TAIZAN MEIDO!!
ALL YE GODS AND BUDDHAS!!
CHK
WHOM
BEND
*LITERALLY: "THE GREAT MOUNTAIN RUMBLES."
SASUKE, DODGE!!
!!
BLA-DES DON'T PEN-ETRATE!!

ALL WHO BELIEVE SHALL BE SAVED!!
DOOOOM
ZZZT
ZZZT
SORRY!!
I KNOW HIS WEAK SPOT...!!
WHMP
SA-SUKE!
THAP

NOW, WHICH GOD WILL YOU ASK FOR HELP?
MR. ASSHOLE MONK!
HRNNN...
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, BALDY!
HALT
HYNN
YOU DON'T HAVE MUSCLES ALL OVER YOUR HEAD!
WHUMP
?!

WELL FOUGHT!
TAK!
WHAT'S EVERYBODY DOING?!
TMP TMP TMP

GREAT, MORE NOISE.
TMP
!
WHO'S THAT GUY...?!
THAT HAIRPIN... ARE YOU...
THP
...!
HUH? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME...?
SHAK
...
ISANAMI?!

I...
WH-WHO ARE YOU..?
I'M YOUR BROTHER, OF COURSE!!
CRY
WHAAAAAAAA?!
YOU'RE MY WHAT?

SO THIS IS SANADA LAND, EH...
LET'S JUST RUN FOR IT, *SIS!
DON'T BE STUPID!
IF WE DON'T MANAGE TO PULL OFF THIS JOB,
OL' GOEMON HERE CAN TURN IN HER WOMAN CARD!

*MORE OF A GANG BOSS FAMILIARITY THAN AN ACTUAL BLOOD RELATION.

ACT. 21 The Stuff of Thieves / Housebreaker

IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?
AHH, WHAT A PLEASURE.
IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT YOU DROP BY AND PAY ME A VISIT
JSSH
...ANY-THING?
IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, I WILL DO IT
PLEASE. FEEL FREE TO ASK

YES.
I ADORE YOU, MASTER KOJURO. A CHANCE TO BE USEFUL TO YOU IS AS MUCH BLESSING AS A WOMAN COULD ASK FOR
SLIDE
YOU SAVED MY LIFE...
NOW MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

VERY WELL SAID.
THERE ARE TWO THINGS I WANT YOU TO STEAL.
SHFF
SIMPLY NAME THEM.

SHAAAA
—AND...
—.
AL-RIGHT?
I ASSURE YOU
IT WILL BE DONE.

CONTINUED
HOW I'VE SEARCHED FOR YOU, MY SISTER!!
おおおお

...
SCOOT
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
IT ISN'T PROPER TO SUDDENLY TRY TO HUG SOMEBODY.
I'M HER BIG BROTHER!
WHAT HARM IS THERE IN US TOUCHING EACH OTHER?
SURELY!
I DIDN'T LIE TO YOU!
I DON'T KNOW THIS GUY!!
--DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO FAMILY?
COME AGAIN ...?
GRIP
GRIP
GRIP
GRIP
GRRR...
HEY! WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
HMMM?

FSSSSH
WHAT'S ONLY PROPER, AS YOUR BROTHER!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO MEN!! IT'LL CORRUPT YOU!!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO TELL ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
AHAHH
BECAUSE I'M YOUR BROTH-ER!!
HAHA?
TOO CLOSE!!
WHOOM
ISANA-MI.
WHISPER
WHIS-ER
CHERE
?
POM
AUGHHHH!!
!
AUGHH!

S-SURE...
S-SO CLOSE!
—RIGHT?!
I TOLD YOU, THAT'S TOO CLOSE!!
ZHOMM
TIME TO TEACH YOU A LESSON!!
UGH!
STOP IT!!

M-MHMM...
THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL CLOSE TO ME, SO YOU BETTER NOT HURT THEM!!
IF YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY BROTHER, STOP BEING VIOLENT!!
FARE!
SHAME ON YOU!!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL JUST BE SOME HELLION!!
AND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, ANYWAY?!
HE HE HE
AWW..
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
THAT'S RIGHT!
DEJECTED
SH-SHAME... ON ME...?

I'LL AT LEAST LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
OKAY?!
SNIFF
NOW IF YOU TIDY ALL OF THIS UP,
SNIFF
...!
SURE!!
ALRIGHT! THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE!
THE REST OF YOU, HELP OUT!!
SCREW THAT!! DO IT YOURSELF!!
I KNEW IT... HE'S A SOFTIE FOR HER.

WHACK WHACK
WHACK WHACK
WHACK WHACK
AHH, JUST LEAVE IT TO BIG BROTHER!
COME ON, MAKE IT SNAPPY!
HE'S STILL SAYING IT.
WHACK
I...
ARE YOU OKAY?
BOLT
GLOOM

SHOULD I WAKE HIM UP?
I'M SO CONFLICT-ED...
STILL, THOUGH...
IT'S ONE WEIRDO AFTER THE NEXT AROUND HERE...
WHOA!
FLINCH
BOLT
GWAH!!
AUGHH! HAVE YOU GOT A BUSTED LUNG?!
BLOP
I'LL KILL HIM!
!!
AGH?
WHERE'S THAT BALD MONK BITCH?!

—YOU SAY YOU'RE ISANAMI'S BROTHER?!
SCRATCH
INDEED! I AM HER BROTHER, THE MONK SEIKA! MIYOSHI.
LORD YUKIMURA!
HE'S NOT MY BROTHER!
SIGN: PROSPEROUS CASTLE TOWN

IN FACT, YOU LOOK FILTHY.
STARE
BUT. YOU DON'T LOOK A THING LIKE HER.
OF COURSE I DON'T! WE'RE NOT RELATED BY BLOOD!
HE DOESN'T, DOES HE?!

SHE AND I ARE BOTH ORPHANS.
THE CHIEF PRIEST OF THE IZUMO GRAND SHRINE RAISED US.
THE CHIEF PRIEST...
BY THE WAY, I WAS THE ONE WHO FOUND HER ABANDONED BENEATH THE SHRINE ARCHWAY WHEN I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD.
WHAT'S THIS DOING HERE...?
YOU'RE KIDDING!
SHE WAS THIS LITTLE!
WELL.. HE DOESN'T SEEM SUSPICIOUS..
YOU'RE DRESSED A LITTLE ODDLY FOR A CLERGYMAN, THOUGH.
WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN, I LEFT IZUMO TO GO AROUND TO DIFFERENT PROVINCES AND STUDY ALL THE GODS.
IT FINALLY LED ME TO A SINGLE CONCLUSION.
NAMELY, THAT ALL THE GODS ARE THE SAME, AND ALL WHO BELIEVE SHALL BE SAVED!

...
WHAT A SINFUL THING TO SAY!!
ISN'T IT THANKS TO THOSE GODS THAT I MANAGED TO FIND ISANAMI THIS WAY?!
I DON'T KNOW.
THE OLD MAN TOLD ME TO BE HERE, SO I'M HERE.
SOUNDS TOO INCONSISTENT TO ME.
WHY ARE YOU EVEN IN HERE, ANYWAY?!
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU!!
IT APPEARS THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ISANAMI IN A LONG TIME. HOW DID YOU KNOW RIGHT AWAY IT WAS HER?

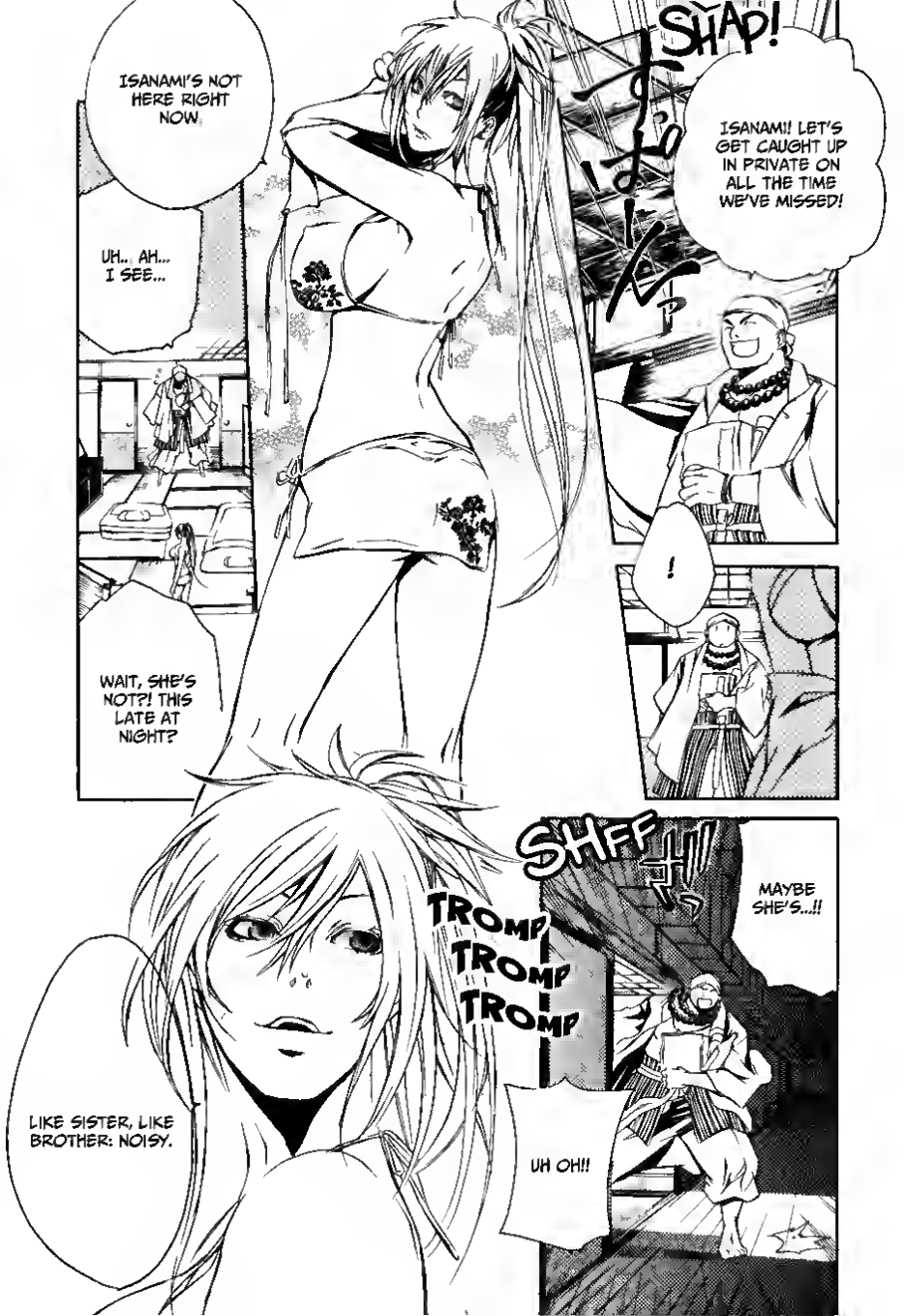
SIGN: PROSPEROUS CASTLE TOWN

THE ONLY SHRINE MAIDEN WHO PROTECTS THE KUSHIMITAMA IS ISANAMI.
...HE MUST BE LEGIT.
SHUFF
I HAVE TO ADMIT, I HAVE CHANGED A LOT.
LOOK.
THIS IS AN OLD DRAWING OF ME.
LIFT
I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER YOU...
MHMM
I'VE GROWN MUCH STURDIER ON MY LONG JOURNEY, SO IT'S NO WONDER YOU CAN'T TELL.
MHMM

WHAAAAAA?!
THAT'S ME WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN.
AHHH!!
YOU'RE RIGHT! I DID HAVE A BIG BROTHER!
...
YOU FINALLY REMEMBERED!
CRY
TIME FOR THAT REUNION HUG!
AUGHHH!!
YOU'RE FILTHY!
WHAAA?!
IRON FIST!
WHAMMO!
OH, WHY NOT?!
THE PASSAGE OF TIME...
SURE ISN'T KIND...
PWIP
ALRIGHT, THEN.

FATE MUST BE AT WORK HERE.
FWUUW
YOU MAY STAY HERE IN UEDA, IF YOU WISH.
!!
MOVED
!
LORD YUKIMURA JUST HIRED HIM.
THANK YOU!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KAKEI?
...
HEY! I CAN KILL THE GUY, RIGHT?!
RIGHT?!

...
HMM.
H-HM.
WHMP
WHMP
H-HM.
HMM.
WHMP


ISANAMI'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW.
UH... AH... I SEE...
WAIT, SHE'S NOT?! THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
SHAP!
ISANAMI! LET'S GET CAUGHT UP IN PRIVATE ON ALL THE TIME WE'VE MISSED!
!
SHFF
TROMP TROMP TROMP
MAYBE SHE'S...!!
UH OH!!
LIKE SISTER, LIKE BROTHER: NOISY.

I WONDER IF HE'LL LIKE IT IF I SNEAK IN.
HEE HEE!
EHEHEHEHEH I HAVEN'T SLEPT TOGETHER WITH SAIZO IN A WHILE.
THP THP
SO MUCH HAS GONE ON LATELY.
WHAT DO I DO IF HE MAKES A MOVE?!
YIKES!
OH! OH! BUT SAIZO WAS KINDA AGGRESSIVE TODAY!
WHAP!
ISANAMI...
WILD FANTASY IN PROGRESS
NO, NO! WELL, I SHOULD AT LEAST BE PREPARED...
MMMMP MMMMP
YEEE!
WHUMP
!!
I-I'M A SHRINE MAIDEN, SO SEX IS OFF LIMITS!
BUT-BUT-BUT... WHAT IF HE WANTS ME...? AHHHHHH!

THNK
THNK
THNK
THNK
!!
WATCH WERE YOU'RE GOIN'!
I HAD ALL THESE HIDDEN, TOO!
CLUMSY FOOL!
HRN?
OH IT'S YOU, BITCH! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' AROUND THE MEN'S ROOMS?!
THNK
WH-WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THOSE WEAPONS?!
ISN'T SAIZO'S ROOM THAT WAY?!
HEY!!
NONE A YOUR DAMN BUSINESS
SHUT UP!

WHAM
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD SHUT UP!!
BUH!
I NEED SLEEP!! GET LOST, OR I'LL KILL YOU!!
CHFF
PREEMPTIVE ATTACK, HUH?!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE READY TO THROW DOWN!!
DON'T BE SILLY!! IT'S YOUR FAULT SAIZO'S ANGRY NOW!!
AH?!
DM DM DM DM
ISANAMIIIII!!
WHAT'D YOU SAY?!

ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONS AREN'T ALLOWED!!
JUDGMENT TIME!!
GRAB
WHACK
—DON'T PROVOKE ME ANY FURTHER,
OR YOU'RE DEAD.
WHOOM

...MAN!
PSHAP!!
COME CHAT WITH YOUR BIG BROTHER!
WONDER IF I CAN KILL THIS GUY...
THAT SUCKS!!
THE NUISANCES ARE GONE. SHOW YOURSELF.

—WELL DONE, MARICI SAIZO.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D PICK UP ON MY PRESENCE.
YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
YOUR NAME IS CONSIDERABLY FAMOUS IN IGA.
THEY SAY YOU'RE INCREDIBLE FOR ONE SO YOUNG.

A THIEF BY THAT NAME WAS BOILED ALIVE IN A CAULDRON FIVE YEARS AGO.
TNK
I'M LIVING PROOF OF THAT!
*THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THIEVES, HE SAID.
YOU'RE A FRAUD, IS WHAT YOU ARE.
YOU'RE A NINJA?
IDENTIFY YOURSELF.
GOEMON ISHIKAWA

*A REFERENCE TO THE FAMOUS FAREWELL POEM BY THE ACTUAL GOEMON ISHIKAWA.

I INHERITED MY INVISIBILITY SKILLS FROM MY FATHER HIMSELF.
I REALLY AM HIS SUCCES-SOR.
YOU'D BEST NOT MAKE FUN OF ME.
FWOOMP!
GETTING INTO A CASTLE LIKE THIS IS A PIECE OF CAKE!
HUHM.
HE EVEN MANAGED TO SNEAK INTO HIDEYOSHI TOYOTOMI'S BEDROOM.
SHAAA
SO WHAT ARE YOU HERE TO STEAL, THIEF?
YOU DON'T SAY.

I'M GOING TO TAKE TWO THINGS.
THE KUSHIMITAMA, AND YUKIMURA SANADA'S LIFE.
WHAM
SHOM

WHOMM
THPP
OH MY, THAT WAS OUT OF THE BLUE.
HOW UNKIND.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE DEALING WITH A PROBLEM RIGHT AWAY!
TOK
GRIP
HOLD IT!!
I ONLY CAME TO SAY HELLO, TONIGHT.
SHIT

YOU CAN BE SURE THAT THE ISHIKAWA GANG...
TMP
LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
WILL TAKE BOTH THE KUSHIMITAMA AND YUKIMURA'S LIFE.
...SHIT!

ACT.22 Tepid Water / Easy Living

GOEMON ISHIKAWA?
I THOUGHT HE WAS EXECUTED BY BEING BOILED ALIVE.
SHIP
DID YOU SEE HIS GHOST?
DUMBASS!!
AS IF I'D COME REPORT TO YOU FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!
SHE CAME HERE TO ANNOUNCE,
FOCUS
SHE'S GOING TO TAKE YOUR LIFE AND THE KUSHIMITAMA.

SHP
OH YEAH..?
A LETTER P
IT'S HARD TO COPE, WHEN I'M TOO SEXY FOR MY OWN GOOD.
YOU KNOW?
THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING, IF THEY GOT INSIDE THE CASTLE.
WHO MIGHT THEY WORK FOR?
SIIIGH
LOOK, MAN
FUHHH/
WHO KNOWS ...?
YEAH, I KNOW.

WELL, I HAVE SOME EXCELLENT GUARDING PIECES IN PLAY,
SO I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BEING TAKEN ANYTIME SOON.
RIGHT, SAIZO?
...
LEAVE IT TO ME.
THAT'S WHAT I HOPED YOU'D SAY

YOU'LL NEED TO COVER FOR KAKEI, TOO.
...?! KAKEI'S NOT HERE?!
HE LEFT THIS LETTER BEHIND.
SAYS HE'S GOING TO TRAVEL AROUND AGAIN FOR A WHILE.
LEAVE REQUEST
HE NEEDS TO REPAIR HIS MATCH-LOCK, TOO.
THIS IS NEWS TO ME!
ISN'T IT KIND OF SUDDEN?!
HE KNOWS HOW BEST TO ASSESS HIMSELF.
HE'S A SAMURAI, AFTER ALL.

TOSS
HERE'S A REWARD.
!
THANKS FOR REPORTING.
ANYWAY, WE'LL WAIT FOR THEM TO MAKE A MOVE.
I'M NOT A KID, YOU KNOW!!
COME ON, DON'T GET MAD.
GIVE SOME TO OUR LOOKOUT UP ON THE ROOF.
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, BRING HER UP TO SPEED, TOO

THMP
!
HYNN
YO!
SAIZO...
WHAT'S THIS?
A TREAT FROM THE OLD MAN.

GOEMON ISHIKAWA, HUH?
AND KAKEI SET OUT ON A JOURNEY...?
YOU END UP HESITATING TO GET OUT.
IT'S COMFORTABLE HERE, LIKE A BABY'S FIRST BATH...
WHAT I DON'T GET IS, IT'S JUST A MATCH-LOCK. HE COULD JUST WORK ON IT HERE.
I WONDER WHY HE HAD TO GO WANDERING OFF.
...ANA?
IMMERSED IN A TEMPORARY SERENITY...
...HE WANTED TO BE ALONE.

YOU CAN'T GET STRONGER THAT WAY.
THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT.
KAKEI COULD HAVE AT LEAST SAID SOMETHING BEFORE HE LEFT.
HE'S THE ONE ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT COURTESY!
OH, DO YOU MISS HIM?
YOU SURE HAVE SETTLED DOWN A LOT, SAIZO!
I DON'T MISS HIM, AND I HAVEN'T SETTLED DOWN!!
OH, NO?

WASN'T THE OLD YOU MORE MENACING?
WAS YOUR ENEMY.
YOU HAD A DIFFERENT LOOK IN YOUR EYES, LIKE EVERY ONE...
SHUT UP!
LOTS OF THINGS CHANGE AS YOU GET OLDER.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE STILL YOUNG!

I'LL TAKE THIS WELL SINCE YOU BROUGHT IT ALL THE WAY UP HERE
KRSH KRSH KRSH
...IT'S CANDY!
WANT ME TO FEED SOME TO YOU LIKE WE USED TO.
SAIZO?
SEE YA!!
TMP
I'M NOT A KID ANY-MORE. CON-TRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF!!
WE'RE STILL THAT CLOSE, AREN'T WE?
MUNCH
SWEET...

IT'S EASY TO LET THE COMFORT WARM YOU TOO MUCH
OH SAIZO
UGH THE PERVERT
SAIZO... I CAN TELL YOU'RE CHANGING.
CLUTCH
BUT ..
COMRADES RELY ON EACH OTHER HERE.. IT'S TEPID WATER

I CAN'T AFFORD TO LET MY ICE MELT.
A TREAT FROM THE OLD MAN...

THINGS SURE ARE EASYGOING HERE IN UEDA, THOUGH.
BIG DOG INN
THAT'S WHAT PEACE CAN DO FOR A TOWN.
OH YEAH? SOUNDS LIKE A NICE PLACE TO LIVE
SOUNDS PERFECT FOR WHEN WE'RE OLD
NOT FOR ME, THANKS.
LIVING IN LUKEWARM TRANQUILITY WOULD BE LIKE DYING A SLOW DEATH.

IT'S BETTER FOR THE WORLD TO BE A LITTLE WILD.
OH YEAH?! IS THAT WHY YOU GO AROUND BREAKING INTO PLACES, BOSS?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU LIKE DOING IT TOO...
I THOUGHT THAT'S WHY YOU'RE IN MY GANG!
HAHA! CAN'T ARGUE THERE.
WE'VE BEEN FORCED TO LIVE IN HIDING,
AND HE'S SET THINGS UP SO WE CAN SCORE BIG TIME.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU FEEL FOR HIM, HE'LL NEVER LET YOU GET TOO CLOSE, BOSS!
WE OWE A GREAT DEAL TO MASTER KOJURO.
WHO COULD ASK FOR MORE?
I'M ALL TOO AWARE OF THAT.

BOSS!
THEY'RE READY!
THIS SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THAT LITTLE CASTLE...
YES, INDEED...
IT'LL PROBABLY TURN INTO HELL ON EARTH

AWP
WE HAVE TO GET THEM BOTH!
OUR TARGETS ARE YUKIMURA SANADA AND THE KUSHIMITAMA!
THE ISHIKAWA GANG IS ON THE MOVE!

...
DON'T BE SO TENSE, ROKURO.
IT'S STIFLING.
WHAT'S THE POINT IN GETTING WORKED UP BEFORE THEY'RE HERE?!
BE-SIDES .
WHAT'LL YOU DO IF THEY EASILY GET IN?!
WHY DON'T YOU WARN EVERYONE AND TAKE PRECAU-TIONS?!

WE CAN'T PUT TOGETHER A PLAN IF WE DON'T KNOW THEIR STRENGTHS OR METHODS.
IT WOULD INVITE UNNECESSARY CONFUSION, AND THAT COULD BE WHEN THEY ATTACK.
LEAVE THIS TO OUR NINJA TEAM.
AND BESIDES, I HAVE YOU HERE.
..SHALL I MAKE SOME MORE TEA?
SURE.

I SAID, WE'RE GOING TO SLEEP TOGETHER FOR A WHILE.
—HUH?!
!!
OH NO! BUT I'M NOT READY.. WHAT DO I DO?!
YOWZA!
NOTHING, THAT'S WHAT.
WHAT?!
SASUKE... WHAT'S UP?!
BARGING IN.
WHAP!!

WE CAN SPAR SOME OTHER TIME!
ISN'T IT TIME FOR YOU TO GO INTO THE FOREST?
TUG
TUG
?
?
.. WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, TOO?!
WHAT ABOUT THE OLD MAN?!
ROKURO WITH HIM.
LORD YUKIMURA SAY, PROTECT ISANAMI.
NO! LORD YUKIMURA HAVE SOME PLAN!
DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT HE'S A TARGET...?
BUT...
I WOR-RIED...
BUT WITH TWO DUDES HERE, HE IS BOUND TO SHOW UP.
THMP
THMP
THMP
HE?
IN FACT, HERE HE COMES.
WHMP
WHMP
WHMP
ISANAMI!!!

Y-YOU GUYS!!
YOU CAN'T JUST GO INTO A GIRL'S BEDRO-
WHMP
WHMP
WHMP
WHMP
WHMP
WHMP
WHMP
!!
Y!
WHAM
WHAT THE?!
WHAT HAPPENING?!
SWAY

THIS SMELL ...
!!
WHIP
ISANAMI!
POISON IN TEA...?
SHAKE
SHAKE
NO... DIFFERENT.
AN IGA TRICK...
SWAY
THIS MIGHT BE...

ALL TOO EASY
WE'D BE IN TROUBLE TOO, IF WE WEREN'T WEARING THESE.
IT DROPS THEM LIKE FLIES
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S AN IGA SECRET POISON

ANYONE WHO BREATHES IT IN, FAINTS ON THE SPOT...
THE STUFF'S BANNED EVEN IN IGA, IT'S SO NASTY!
IT SURE MAKES OUR JOB A LOT EASIER.
YEAH, TOO EASY!
YOU SAID IT!
WELL, LET'S WRAP THIS UP, AND QUICKLY!
YOU GOT IT.
HOW HARD CAN IT BE TO KILL SOMEBODY WHO'S PASSED OUT?!
THIS IS SO DULL...
IT'S BAD MANNERS TO WALK INTO SOMEBODY'S HOUSE UNINVITED.
SHFF

SHFF
WH-WHO'RE YOU?!
HOW ARE YOU AWAKE?!
IT'S COLD!
SHIT!! CHANGE OF PLANS!!
KILL HER!!
SHFF
WHOOOOOOO
HELLO THERE, THIEVES.
IGA POISONS WON'T WORK ON ME.
OOOOO
OOOOO

TAKE THIS!!
SHOMM
FWOOM
HYNN
SHHHNK
UOHH!
BLORP
ERRRT
?!
!!
TWIST
FALL
WHOP
GHOLP
YOU BITCH!!

AUGH!!
SHINK
!!
ZHOOM
WHUMP
SWAAAP
WHO IS SHE...?!
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...!
THANKS FOR DROPPING BY.
I WAS GETTING A LITTLE RUSTY.

SFF
HUHMM! HAVING SWEET DREAMS?
THERE'S THE TREASURE...
REACH
COME TO

WELL, THEN...
NOT BAD, IGA NINJA...

THWP
HYNN

INVISIBILITY HAPPENS TO BE A SPECIALTY OF MINE.
—!!

I HAD A FEELING YOU'D BE AWAKE!!
THNK
THNK
THNK
THNK
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR YOUR DIRTY TRICKS!!
SHAA
HAH!
WHAT KIND OF CRAP WAS THAT?

SHOOM
HOW DOES FAIRNESS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH NINJA SKILLS?!
LISTEN! WE'RE THE ONLY ONES ON OUR FEET!
YOU LOOK AFTER THE OLD MAN!
LORD YUKIMURA!!

...!
FWUMP
FWUMP
HRN?!
SWAT
SNZZZZ.
SHFFF
SHFFF
ICHIMARU! HAS THE GANG ALREADY GOTTEN STARTED?!
WE'VE GOT TO WATCH CLOSELY, THEN REPORT TO OUR LORD, NIKO!

ACT-23 The Birth of a Brave

SWOP
CHINNng
SHOULDN'T CHILDREN BE IN BED RIGHT NOW?!
I THINK YOU'RE TRYING TOO HARD, OLD HAG!!

SHMP
!!
CHM
CHM
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL SLEEP!!
SHOOM
YOU CAN'T KEEP UP WITH MY SPEED, CAN YOU?!
SHOM
GOTCHA!!!

WH...?!
SPANG
YOU STO...!
WHUNK
AUGH!!
YOU OLD BITCH!!
CHFF
PITCH
!!

HUH?! WHAT...?!
WHUMP
ICE...?
I CAN'T MOVE...
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
OH, YOU COULD STILL MOVE, IF YOU CUT YOUR LEGS OFF WITH THAT BIG SWORD.
COME ON, SHOW ME YOU'VE GOT THE NERVE TO DO IT!
SHUDDER

LIFT
ST-
STOP...!
SHMP
I'LL LEAVE!! I'LL LEAVE, SO LET ME GO!!
...NO!
I JUST... TH-THOUGHT I'D GET A TINY SHARE OF THE PROFITS...
AREN'T YOU PART OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED ISHIKAWA GANG?!
SO... SO, JUST LET ME LIVE!!
THAT'S RIGHT!!
WITHOUT TAKING ANY-THING?
...OKAY?
SIIIIGH
WHAT A LETDOWN.

DO I REALLY LOOK THAT SOFT?
SHWACK
I WON'T LOSE SIGHT OF MY COLD STRENGTH.
NOW I WONDER... HOW'S SAIZO DOING?
SHOOM

WHAM
LORD YUKIMURA!!
...!!
LORD... YUKIMURA?
SHFF
LIFT
CHILL

PYOWN
!!
WHOOPS!
ARE YOU ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE IGA NINJAS?
SHMM
WHUP
NO!!
CHING

JUST HOLD STILL A MINUTE.
I REALLY WANT THAT GUY'S HEAD.
WELL I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN EVEN MOVE!!
IT'S A MATTER OF THIEF'S HONOR.
SHM
SHM
SHM
SHM
SHM
HIGH
...HONOR?

CLENCH
YOU COME UEDA...?
FOR SOMETHING THAT WORTHLESS,
CLENCH
PUT LORD YUKIMURA THROUGH THIS?!
OUR GANG DOESN'T HAPPEN TO SHOW MUCH IN THE WAY OF MERCY..
SWKK
YOU'D BETTER GO ALL-OUT!
WHOA!
--HUH?!

!!
KUHH!!
WAP
SHMM
HE'S FAST..!
WHOCK
YOU BROKE SOME-THING!!
FWIP!!
ARE YOU A GODDAMN MONKEY ...?!
NOBODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE LIKE THAT!!

HUH...?!
!!
OOH!
SLOW.
OOHHH!
SHOOM
SHWOCK
OHH!
WHAP
THMP
GWAH!
SHRRIP
KRCH

SHOLK
SPURT
PUNK... KID...
SCREW...
YOU...
RAAA
SPLAT
ISHIKAWA GANG'S... REPUTATION'S... AT... STAKE...
SHLLF
HAVE TO... TAKE IT...
THUD

YOU DEFILED UEDA.
THWOK
PAY WITH DEATH.
LORD YUKIMURA!!
...!
...
GOOD...
SWAY

HAA!
HAA!
CHFF
...BUT...
THIS POISON...
HAHH!
HAHHH!

HAA.
HAA.
THIS IS PATHETIC.
H...HH.
THE POISON GOT TO YOU, DIDN'T IT?!
HAA
SHUT UP!
IF YOU'RE AN IGA NINJA, HAVEN'T YOU BUILT UP A RESISTANCE?
OF COURSE I HAVE!!
DAMN IT! I'M ALL... NUMB...
FWSSS
ZHAAAA
BEST OF LUCK, THEN!
REALLY.

TCH!
THNK THNK THNK
WHACK WHACK
WHACK WHACK
HOW LONG CAN YOU KEEP THIS UP?!
SHOOM
THAT NEEDLE LAUNCHER'S A PAIN!!
UOHH!!
JAMMNG
CHIK
THOOMP!

...!!
UH OH,
A FEW GOT THROUGH.

WHAM
THK
THK
THK
KUH!
SON OF A--!!
SHOOM

!!
SHOOM
SHMP
PAPT
THAP
SHAK
TAK
HYNN

SHANG
SWAY
GUH!
HAAH...
YOU'RE TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH THE GIRL!
ONCE AN IGA NINJA HAS TO PROTECT SOMETHING, HE'S FINISHED.
HAA.
ARE YOU AFTER THE KUSHIMI-TAMA...?
SHAK
HAA...
WHY...
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT TO ASK OF A THIEF?!
BECAUSE I WANT IT!

THIEVES JUST...
TAKE THE THINGS THEY WANT!
ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT...
HER HAIRPIN IS THE KUSHI-MITAMA.
HAA
HAA
WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?!
TOKU-GAWA...?
NO... DATE?!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
!!
SHOOM
THAT'S ENOUGH CHATTER!!

CHING
CHING
BINGO!! WORLD-FAMOUS THIEF? YEAH, RIGHT!!
YOU'RE JUST SOME-BODY'S TOOL!!
CLANG
HAH!!
SAY WHAT YOU WILL!!
MY LIFE BELONGS TO HIM, AND HIM ALONE!!
CLANG CLANG CLANG
WHUMP
NOW MY FIRE BURNS ONLY FOR HIM!!
I'M NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE ALIVE...
HE TOOK ME IN AT KYOTO...

GUH...! YOU LEFT YOURSELF OPEN ON PURPOSE!!
HOP
TAK
HEH! HEHEHEH!
THIS? THIS IS NOTHING!
PLAP
PREPARED TO DIE...
HAA...
...HAAH!
...TO DIE, THAT IS.
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST NOT PREPARED ENOUGH?
SO WHAT IF YOU GET STABBED IN THE GUT, OR LOSE AN ARM?
A NINJA MUST STILL COMPLETE HIS OBJECTIVE!

YET YOU CALL YOURSELF AN IGA NINJA?
HAVE I...
HAS SAIZO KIRIGAKURE OF IGA LOST HIS RESOLVE?!
HE THOUGHT, YOU CAN'T GET STRONGER THIS WAY...
BEEN GETTING WEAKER?
—IT'S COMFORTABLE HERE, LIKE A BABY'S FIRST BATH.
...NO!!
GRIND
I HAVE SOME EXCELLENT GUARDING PIECES IN PLAY.

SORRY, BUT YOU'RE WRONG.
SWAY
I CAME HERE,
EARNED TRUST...
MET ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE...
AND THERE'S ONE THING THAT I'VE LEARNED.
YOU CAN'T ACCOM-PLISH ANYTHING IF YOU'RE DEAD!!

I'M NO IGA NINJA...
I'M A SANADA BRAVE.
DASH
...A BRAVE?!
ZHOMMM
THAT'S WHERE ...
MY RESOLVE LIES.

*MEANS "HEAT HAZE SLASH."

KAH...!
AHH...
AHH...
SHAK
WHOLK

MASTER... KOJURO...!
...
HAHH!

...YEAH!
FHHHH!
KACHING
WHAT A SURPRISE
...AND HERE, I WONDERED HOW HARD A TIME HE WAS HAVING
I GUESS THAT'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN GROW STRONGER...
A BRAVE'S RE-SOLVE...

CHEEP
CHIRP
THE NEXT MORNING...
...HRNNN...
SHLFF
HEA..
VY...!
THUNK
...!!
LORD YU-
KIMURA!!
TMP
MEDICINE BOX
SARUTOBI
...HMM?

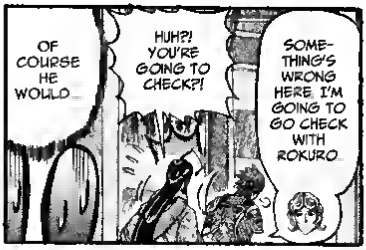
...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
MY HEAD HURRRTS ...!
WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP, ANYWAY...?
BATHUMP
!!
SA- SA- SA...
SAIZO?!
OPEN
...YEAH?!

I WORE MYSELF OUT LAST NIGHT.
ROLL
LET ME SLEEP A LITTLE LONGER...
SHOCK!!
I DON'T REMEMBER IT AT ALL!!
EEEEEK!! WE FINALLY CROSSED THAT LINE!!
WE DIDN'T!!
FWUHIP
THESE TWO ARE STILL ASLEEP.
2222
JUST YOU WAIT SAIZO!
2222
STRAIN
NI
ICHI
HNNN, PICKLED RADISH...!!
SO ARE THEY..
IGNO-RANCE IS BLISS.
39

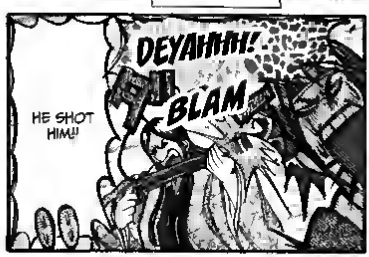
VOLUME 4/THE END

To be continued in
Volume 5

The Lord and his Ten Braves ②

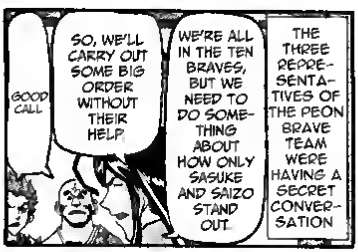


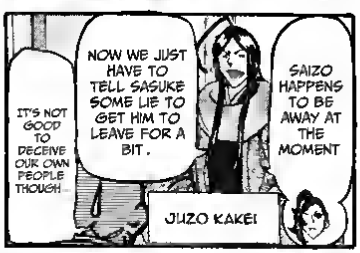
THEN WHAT'S HE GONNA DO IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?!
BUT JUZO SAID HE HAS A BACKUP PLAN...!
WH-WHAT DO WE DO?! HE'S ABOUT TO FIND OUT AND GET MAD AT US, TOO!
KAMANOSUKE YURI



YEAH, BUT IT STILL LOOKS LIKE HE'S DYING!!
D-DON'T WORRY IT'S A TRANQUILIZER SHOT
HEY!! HOW COULD YOU SHOOT OUR OWN GUY TO DEATH?!
BLEED BLEED

The Lord and his Ten Braves ①


GOOD CALL
SO, WE'LL CARRY OUT SOME BIG ORDER WITHOUT THEIR HELP.
WE'RE ALL IN THE TEN BRAVES, BUT WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HOW ONLY SASUKE AND SAIZO STAND OUT.
THE THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEON BRAVE TEAM WERE HAVING A SECRET CONVERSATION


IT'S NOT GOOD TO DECEIVE OUR OWN PEOPLE THOUGH...
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO TELL SASUKE SOME LIE TO GET HIM TO LEAVE FOR A BIT.
SAIZO HAPPENS TO BE AWAY AT THE MOMENT
JUZO KAKEI

THAT'S RIGHT.
HUH? AN ORDER FOR ME?
OH, THERE'S NO ILL WILL HERE IT'LL BE A LIE THAT, SHOULD HE FIND OUT, HE'LL JUST LAUGH AND FORGIVE US FOR
WHAT KIND?
SASUKE SARUTOBI

THAT'S SOME PRETTY SHITTY ILL WILL...
THAT ORDER'S TWICE AS HARSH AS USUAL!
YOU'RE TO INFILTRATE A LAVATORY IN IEYASU'S ESTATE FOR A MONTH, AND GATHER INFORMATION
YEAH.

THE HIGHLY POPULAR WARRING STATES ERA 4-PANEL MANGA
MY LORD AND ME VOLUMES 1 AND 2 ARE ON SALE NOW FROM MF COMICS!!

The Lord and his Ten Braves ④

THEY WERE DEMOTED BELOW PEON BRAVE LEVEL.
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
I NEED YOU TO TRAVEL ALL AROUND THE LAND, GATHERING INFORMATION AS YOU CLEAN LAVATORIES

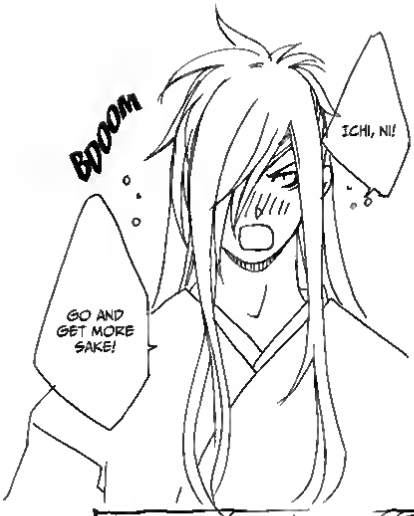
The Lord and his Ten Braves ③

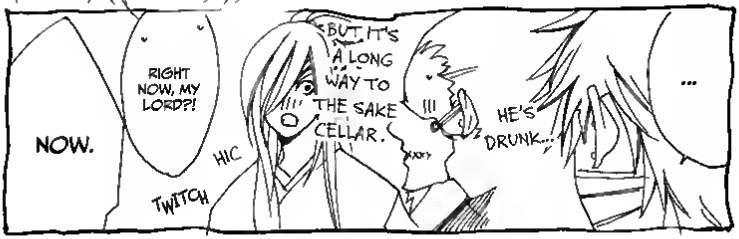
To be continued in Volume 5!!

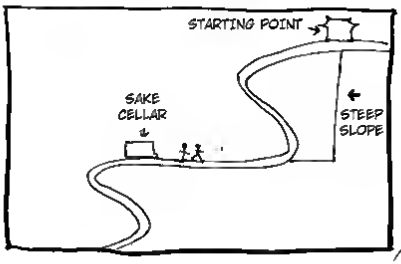
A BONUS MANGA

These two merely fell asleep at the end of this volume's story proper.

ICHIMARU AND NIKO'S DAILY GRIND.







CHARGE!
LET'S DRINK UP!!
XXXXX
MY LORD!! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!!
ARE YOU THE ONES WHO GAVE SAKE TO LORD MASAMUNE?
ZZZ ZZZ
FLINCH
!!
WHAAAAA?!
XXXV
YOU'RE GETTING PAY CUTS!!
THEY HAPPENED TO GET DRAGGED INTO THE MIDDLE OF THINGS.
ZZZ ZZZ
HE DRANK ON PURPOSE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE THE GUEST
HE'S SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH AN IMPORTANT GUEST SOON!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
THE UNUSUALLY MENACING VIBES COMING FROM KOJURO
N-NO... WE JUST...!
ICHI AND NI'S TURMOIL

✣ AFTERWORD ✣

HELLO TO EVERYONE, BOTH NEW AND OLD. THIS IS KAIRI SHIMOTSUKI.

- BRAVE 10 IS NOW UP TO VOLUME 4!! THAT'S A FIRST FOR ME! I'M SO HAPPY!! THE ISHIKAWA GANG MAKES ITS FIRST APPEARANCE IN THIS VOLUME! AND THEN THEY DIED... PERSONALLY I WANTED TO STRETCH OUT THEIR PART A LITTLE MORE, BUT WELL, THIS IS HOW IT ENDED UP TURNING OUT. SPEAKING OF, THE SISTER-COMPLEX HAVING MONK, SEIKAI MIYOSHI, MADE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE, TOO. THESE SIBLINGS ARE BOTH PRETTY NOISY, HUH? YOU SHOULD PROBABLY JUST WRITE THAT OFF AS "FLAVOR."

- I'M GOING TO TRY TO GRADUALLY CLARIFY ALL OF THE VARIOUS FEELINGS, ROLES, AND SUCH AS WE GO, SO PLEASE BE SURE TO KEEP READING! I'LL KEEP PLUGGING AWAY AT THIS WARRING STATES FANTASY STORY ABOUT HOW SAIZO AND COMPANY GROW AS PEOPLE, AND I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO ENJOY IT.

- THANK YOU AS ALWAYS TO EVERYONE WHO SENDS ME MESSAGES ON THE WEB. AND IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE ALL OF YOU READERS THAT I'M ABLE TO KEEP DRAWING MANGA. THANK YOU.

SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT VOLUME!!

Ic Shimotsuki
2008. 9-XX

I WISH I COULD HAVE GIVEN YOU A BIGGER ROLE.

SORRY GOEMON...

• MANY THANKS •

✣ KAI OHBA, WHO DRAWS THOSE FANTASTIC 4-PANELERS AT THE END OF EACH VOLUME

AND EVERYONE ELSE INVOLVED WITH THIS TITLE.

STAFF

✣ SHINO TAKAOKA ✣

✣ MIZUYOSHI ✣

✣ TOKINON ✣

MY EDITOR. I'M ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP

BRAVE 10 4

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Kairi Shimotsuki

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